

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE DIVISION**

DOCKET NO. 3:95-CR-5-15-FDW

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

DARRYL A. HARRIS,

Defendant.

**MEMORANDUM
OF DECISION**

In this matter before the Court for a reduction of sentence pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) and Amendment 706 of the U.S.S.G. (made retroactive by Amendment 713), the Court makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. Defendant is eligible for a sentence reduction to a period of confinement equal to 292 months for the reasons set forth in the Supplement to the Presentence Report.
2. In the case of a defendant who has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment “based on a sentencing range that has subsequently been lowered by the Sentencing Commission,” 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) provides that the Court *may* reduce the term of imprisonment “after considering the factors set forth in section 3553(a) to the extent they are applicable” and if such a reduction is consistent with the applicable policy statements issued by the Sentencing Commission. In the Commentary to U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10, the Sentencing Commission emphasized that the decision to grant a sentence reduction authorized by retroactive amendments is discretionary and that retroactivity does not entitle a defendant to a reduced term of imprisonment as a matter of right.
3. The full record before the Court reflects a defendant who was held a leadership role in an extensive drug distribution conspiracy, regularly possessed firearms during and in relation to his drug


trafficking crimes, and conducted drug transactions near schools and playgrounds, but who also has displayed good conduct and some rehabilitative potential while in prison.


4. Upon consideration of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), the possible threat to public safety posed by the early release of a person with this defendant's criminal predispositions, and this defendant's post-sentencing conduct, the court finds:

- a. That the defendant should receive some benefit from the retroactive application of Amendment 706, but that a reduction to 292 months is inappropriate; and
- b. That a sentence of **346 months** is adequate, but no greater than necessary, to accomplish the objectives of 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), while a further reduction would frustrate those objectives;¹ and
- c. That this sentence is within the amended guidelines range.

An appropriate Order shall issue separately.

Signed: August 11, 2008


Frank D. Whitney
United States District Judge



¹The Court notes that it is not required under Fourth Circuit case law to undertake an exhaustive analysis of all of the § 3553(a) factors in this Order. See United States v. Legree, 205 F.3d 724, 728-29 (4th Cir. 2000).